

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 6 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative
of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the Security Council**

I would like to take this opportunity to express Eritrea's most sincere condolences and sympathies to the family and the Government of India over the death of Lance Corporal Kamble Ramesh Annappa, member of the Indian contingent of UNMEE, who suffered cardiac arrest in Adigrat, Ethiopia, and died 12 hours later in Addis Ababa, on 1 March 2006.

While the death of the peacekeeper is to be mourned and grieved by families, friends and concerned parties, it is sad to see that the Security Council and the United Nations Secretary-General in their recent statements to the press chose to politicize it and blame it on Eritrea, which has no control over what happens in Ethiopia.

The circumstances, including the location of the heart failure incident of the peacekeeper and the response time to provide medical attention to the deceased, all beg more questions and it would have been more appropriate to look into the UNMEE mechanisms for coping with emergencies in changing situations on the ground than to conveniently link it to Eritrea's five-month-old restrictions. Eritrea refuses to be used as a scapegoat and it cannot accept statements that fail to objectively and honestly assess incidents that occur outside of its jurisdiction.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Araya Desta
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

